(i) IS 13010:2002-ac Watt hour meters class 0.5, 1 and 2-Specification;

(ii) IS 13779:1999-ac static watt hour meters class 1 and class Specification; and

(iii) IS 14697:1999-ac Static Transformers operated watt hour meter and Var-hour meters class 0.25 and 0.5 Specification.

As per the Indian Standards for electronic meter (IS13779-1999 ac static watt hour meters) when a number of meter are connected to a single distributing mains for registering electricity supplied to different consumers loads, separate service lines – phase(s) and neutral shall be used for each meter.

It is responsibility of all concerned including licensee, consumer and concerned regulatory commission to follow the same.

(f) Regulations 17(ii) of DERC (Performance Standards – Metering and Billing) Regulations, 2002 provides as follows:

> "(ii) In case of new connection/replacement of meter, the consumer, in accordance with Section 26 of the Electricity Act, may himself procure the meter either from the vendors certified by the licensee, or conforming to licensee's technical specifications. The licensee shall calibrate such meter at consumer's cost and seal the meter, Alternatively, consumer may choose to pay the full cost of the meter provided by the licensee. No meter rent shall be chargeable in such cases".

Distribution Companies have adopted IS 13779 specification for consumer metering.

**International bidding for lower tariffs**

2378. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to allow power generation and distribution only through competitive global bidding to ensure lower tariffs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for providing "Electricity to all" in the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a ) and (b) Under the provision of the Electricity Act, while generation of electricity is delicensed, distribution is a licensed activity and the license is granted by the respective Electricity Regulatory Commission.

The National Electricity Policy recognizes that competition will bring significant benefits to consumers, in which case, it is competition which will determine the price rather than any cost plus exercise on the basis of operating norms and parameters. The policy states that all efforts would need to be made to bring the power industry to this situation as early as possible, in the overall interest of consumers.

Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 provides that the Regulatory Commissions shall adopt the tariff if it is determined through transparent process of bidding in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government. The guidelines in this regard have already been issued.

(c) The Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidutikaran Yojana has been launched in April, 2005 towards realizing the goal of providing access to electricity to all households in five years through creation of:—

(i) Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with at least one 33/11 KV ( or 66/11 KV) sub-station in each block.

(ii) Village Electrification Infrastructure (VEI) with at least one distribution transformer in each village/habitation.

(iii) Decentralised Distributed Generation (DDG) Systems where grid supply is not feasible or cost-effective.

There is a provision of 90% capital subsidy from the Central Government for projects sanctioned under the scheme.

**Hydro power plants in the western part of the country**

2379. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number with capacity of hydro plants that are running in the western parts of the country particularly in Maharashtra State;